# House Gets Demand to Probe Dies Disclosures of Confidential Data

By ADAM LAPIN

WASHINGTON, June 22.—Dies Committee action in turning over its confidential files to anti-labor columnist Westbrook Pegler was sharply denounced on the House floor today Rep. Vito Marcantonio, American Laborite of New York, demanded a congressiosal investigation of the incident, and Rep. Herman Eberharter, Pa., Democrat, and member of the Dies Committee, declared it was a "dangerous practice" which threatens the bill of rights.

A half dozen other congressmen, including Reps. Emanuel Celler and Samuel Dickstein, New York Democrats, Michael Bradley and Francis Meyers, Pa. Democrats and Rep. John Cochran Mo., Dem., joined in the attack on the Dies Committee.

Pegler had asserted in two recent columns that Dies Committee files show officials of the CIO Political Action Committee have made telephone calls to high government officials.

The unscrupulous use of telephone records indicated the Dies Committee, despite defeat of three of its members, intends to continue its smear activities during the campaign.

Confirming this belief in the capital, Rep. J. Parnell Thomas said he would urge that this "amazing evidence on PAC telephone calls be made public."

**HOLDS HOUSE RULES VIOLATED**

Marcantonio declared the "transfer of confidential information from the files of a congressional committee to a columnist is reprehensible," and a violation of the rules of the House.

Thomas, a Republican member of the Dies Committee, said he agreed with Marcantonio that there should be an investigation. But he hastily added that the investigation should be conducted by the Dies Committee.

In a heated exchange with Thomas, Marcantonio retorted that the Dies Committee was "involved" in this incident and should not be charged with the investigation. He said later he would introduce a resolution for a special investigation.

Eberharter attacked the telephone company for making its records available to the Dies Committee, and the Dies Committee for turning them over to Pegler. He threatened to resign from the Dies Committee in protest.

"Is the privacy of an occupant of the White House to be violated at the whim of an individual, whether he be a member of the House or otherwise?" Eberharter asked. "Can any citizen, be he obscure or renowned, feel secure in the face of such practices as this?"

**MARTIN DIES ORDERED ACTION**

Eberharter revealed that the order to make the information available to Pegler came from Rep. Martin Dies, who is now in Texas, and

was carried out by Robert Stripling, committee secretary.

He said that the last Dies Committee hearing was held Jan. 19, and other members were not consulted.

The Dies Committee action was defended only feebly by Rep. Fred Busby, Illinois Republican.

Other developments as the Capital became increasingly campaign-minded were:

First, a charge by Rep. George Sadowski, Michigan Democrat, that Edwin F. Jaeckle, chairman of the New York State Republican Committee and spokesman for Gov. Dewey, had denied party endorsement to Rep. Joseph Mruk of Buffalo, because he is "of Polish ancestry and his religion is Catholic." (See story on page 4).

Second, a frank statement by John U. Barr, president of the Byrd-for-President Committee, that his group is encouraging anti-Negro sentiment throughout the country.

Barr said he discovered in a tour of the country that the white people of the north, west and midwest are "deeply incensed" at efforts "to subject them to their inferiors."

Barr defended the plot of southern reactionaries to steal the elections by packing the electoral college with anti-Roosevelt men.

REP. VITO MARCANTONIO

A demand for congressional probe of collusion between the Dies Committee and Westbrook Pegler in connection with attacks on the CIO Political Action Committee was made yesterday by C. B. Baldwin, PAC assistant chairman.

Baldwin branded as a "gross abuse of congressional authority," and a "flagrant violation of fundamental civil rights" the inter-connection under which Dies subpoenaed PAC telephone records from the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. and gave Pegler access to the information.

The Political Action leader sent a hot letter to Speaker Sam Rayburn of the House of Representatives commenting on Pegler's syndicated column of June 20 which revealed such facts as that telephone calls had been made from PAC officers to Mrs. Roosevelt and administration officials.

PAC got its first news of the subpoenaing of telephone records from the Pegler column, Baldwin added. The information, he said, was never referred to in any published Dies Committee report or in any committee hearing.

Calling for a congressional probe he urged that it determine:

1. Under whose authority was the subpoena issued?

2. What circumstances led the telephone company to make the subpoenaed information available without prior advice to the PAC.

3. Who made the subpoenaed information available to Pegler and by what authority?